Supply of Coal by CIL and its subsidiaries to non-existent industrial units

1674. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Coal India Limited and its subsidiaries are supplying coal to large number of non-existent industrial units in the country;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether Government have ordered probe into the functioning of CIL and its subsidiaries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to fix responsibility in such scandals etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (d) The subsidiary companies of Coal India Limited (CIL) supply coal to the non-core sector based on linkages and sponsorship, given by State Government authorities or the sponsoring agencies. The subsidiary companies of CIL have addressed the concerned State Governments to verify the existence of the linked consumer in the non-core sector. The Minister (Coal and Mines) has also addressed to Chief Ministers of States to get the genuineness of the linked non-core industries verified in a time bound manner to ensure that genuine customers get their coal requirements.

Offer given to Jindal Group for open cast mines in Raigarh

1675. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Ministry of Coal under special provision of amendment to Coal Mines Nationalisation Act has offered two open cast mines to Jindals in Raigarh of M.P. for use as captive mines to a power plant;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the mines were handed over even before the monopoly house had taken any step to build the power plant and that it is mining coal for commercial sale; and

(c) if so, the steps taken against the company for flouting the law of the land?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) One coal mining sub-block namely

Gare-Palma IV/1 has been allotted to M/s. Jindal Strips Ltd. for meeting the requirement of coal for their sponge iron plant at Raigarh and two mining sub-blocks namely, Gare-Palma IV/2 and IV/3 have been allotted to M/s. Jindal Power Ltd. as a captive source of supply of coal for their proposed Raigarh TPS (1000 MW) based on the decision of the Screening Committee functioning in the Department of Coal at its meetings held on 3.4.1996 and 3.4.1998 respectively.

(b) and (c) The above blocks were allotted subject to the conditions that the [1] party will take appropriate action for completing necessary formalities for obtaining lease of mining rights from the State Government concerned and also comply with various other commercial/legal requirements. The progress of development of the coal mining block and the associated end-use plant is reviewed by the Screening Committee in its meetings held from time to time, the parties to whom coal mining blocks have been allotted are invariably impressed upon to develop the coal mining block in synchronisation with their end-use plant so that coal mined from the block so allotted is exclusively supplied to the end-use plant in toto and no amount of coal is made use of for commercial sale.

The production in the Gare-Palma IV/1 block has started and the coal so mined therefrom is supplied exclusively for their sponge iron plant. On the request of the party the Government has granted permission under the provisions of the circular No. 13011/8/97-CA datd 1.3.99 for sale of surplus coal fines on three occasions *i.e.* 10.5.2000,21.9.2000 and 6.11.2001.

In the meeting of Screening Committee held on 28.11.2001, the representative of Jindal Power Ltd. informed the Committee that the mining of the coal blocks namely Gare Palma IV/2 & IV/ 3 has not been started and it will be done in synchronisation with the power plant. Mining plan has been approved by Government of India on 25.1.2001. Prior pennission of Government of India for grant of mining lease by the State Government under the provisions of the MMDR Act, 1957 has not yet been sought.

Making loss-making mines viable

1676. SHRI KHAGEN DAS:

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item Paswan,